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COMPT

Budget

17 JUN 1977

La Congress
relatively

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Talking Point Data on Intelligence Budget

1.(AIUO) There seems to be an inconsistency between the "Staff Position" and the "Recommendation" in your draft memorandum to the Director offering him a talking point on the Intelligence Budget. The Staff Position suggests that the budget comparisons will, or can be made available to American citizens but the recommendation says it is intended for use in discussions at not less than the Secret level. Such an inconsistency could lead to misunderstanding and erroneous use of the information.

2.(AIUO) Application of the formula permits the CIA budget figure to be derived by simple arithmetic. Even if its use were restricted to audiences cleared for Secret, we would be spreading the knowledge among a far wider audience than is either necessary or desirable, with a proportionate increase in the potential for leakage.

3.(AIUO) Since use of the formula must be restricted as indicated in your recommendation, it will not serve the purpose suggested in your Staff Position. We suggest that the memorandum not be sent.

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Acting Asst. Comptroller, Resources

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